The Tests and Trials Strengthen Your Faith - Part 1

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

In order to have strong faith, it must be sorely tested, refined, and purified. It's the testing and refining and purifying that is hard--so hard to endure, so hard to understand, so hard to accept.

I am just. I keep My Word. I am faithful. But My ways are so much higher than your ways (Isa.55:9). My priorities are so different from your priorities. You want quick answers, visible results. I'm almost always after something deeper, even more precious and long-lasting--the kind of results that take time.

This Earth and your short life here is a testing ground, there are no two ways about it. There's no way to come to Earth, learn what you need to learn, grow in the ways your spirit needs to grow, experience what you need to experience, and accomplish what you need to accomplish without this sore, painful testing. That's the Earth life. That's life experience on Earth, and that's why what you learn during your life on Earth is so valuable--irreplaceable, really--because it's so hard earned.

Yes, you have the keys. You have the spiritual weapons. You have spirit helpers. You have so much knowledge of the supernatural realm and how it intersects and works with the physical realm. Those are wonderful hints, clues, shortcuts in some ways. But there are limits to how much I can deliver you from the difficulties without taking away your honor, your reward, your testimony, your privilege.

Look back at the great men and women of faith in the Bible and how much they struggled, how many obstacles they had to overcome. Look back at some of the missionaries in the last 500 years and all that they went through.

You're in good company! You're living in the Last Days on Earth, and the battles are raging and the fire is hot. But the rewards that come with your service to Me are so valuable, eternal, and beyond compare. I can't spare you from all the difficulty or it wouldn't be a test--or a testimony. You would be cheated out of what you signed up to come to Earth for in the first place.

Review Hebrews 11. It's not called "the faith chapter" for nothing. It's about the great men and women who gave their lives for their faith. They didn't just endure for a space and then get rescued. They endured, and endured, and endured, and in the end they gave their lives. "They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented. Of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and in mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. These all, having received a good report through faith, received not the promise; God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (Heb.11:37-40).

And the very next verses go on to say, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb.12:1-2).

My loves, there's no "secret answer" that I can give you that is going to see you through the tough times you're experiencing now, or the ones you're going to go through in the future. But what will see you through is faith--faith that never lets go, that never gives up.

You don't have to feel like you have great faith. You don't have to feel like a spiritual giant. All you have to do is stick it out, clinging to the anchor of My Word no matter what things look like around you, and eventually you will win the reward of the promise.

It's tough and hard. I'm sorry. I know you struggle sometimes, and it seems like nothing makes sense. But if you compare your situation with the other missionaries and prophets of history, you will see that they didn't have it any easier. They had their own trials and tests. They prayed desperately for the answers they felt they needed, and then patiently endured when the answers seemed to be so slow in coming--or didn't come at all, from what they could see. They went through the fire just like you are going through the fire, and in some cases their fire was even hotter.

I know what each person needs to bring out the best in them, to refine their faith, to make them pure gold. I don't rejoice to see you in the fire, but I do rejoice when I see your faith stand the test--because then I know that you have gained the reward of the promise, you have endured, and the blessing and honor is yours for all eternity.

It's hard to fight the battles day after day. They almost always seem small compared to the really great goals that are before you. You'd much rather be fighting for something that you see as glorious and magnificent. But you know, great and magnificent victories arise from battles of all sizes. And if you will step back, you'll remember that yours is the most magnificent cause of all time. It's worth living and dying for. It's just that dying daily is so hard, takes so long, and sometimes you lose sight of the goal.

But, My loves, you are doing it. You're running the race. Your names are being inscribed in the heavenly halls of fame as you run and don't give up. You're taking your place beside those like Moses, Nehemiah, Adoniram Judson, William Carey, and other men and women of great faith. Despite all the battles and difficulties they faced, they didn't give up, and that's why their reward is so great. That's why yours will be great as well--because you don't give up.

If everything was easy, I wouldn't need you so desperately--because there would be plenty of people willing to serve Me and do what you're doing. It's hard, it requires so much sacrifice, faith, and endurance, and that's why you are rare, priceless, extremely valuable--and why I will reward you accordingly, above all you can imagine.

So don't give up, My loves. Don't be weary in well-doing. Strengthen your faith in My Word. Drink it in. Let it sustain you. If you're losing perspective, return to your faith, return to the perspective of My Word, and hold on! The victory is coming, and so is the reward, the promise, the blessing.

I give you My Word to strengthen you. I give you the keys to do miracles for you. I give you My love to sustain you. But you must endure. That is what you must do, and that is what you are rewarded for--your faith, your endurance.

No exceptions

Your life is a test of faith. It's good to realize that there are no exceptions when it comes to some of these tests of life and faith. I test you to strengthen you. I refine your gold to purify it. I allow you to face difficulties because it forces you back onto your foundation of faith and trust in Me and endurance, and with time and using your faith you become spiritual bedrock that can stand any test.

Of course, sometimes there are obstacles in your way, things standing in the way of My answers, which I wait for you to remove. But it still comes back to faith--believing that I will answer, making sure you've done your part, and then continuing to believe and do what I've asked you to do for however long it takes until the answer comes.

In many ways the modern world fights against this simple faith and patience. In Bible times it was easier for My prophets to tarry months or years in a place when I told them to, or to wait years for My deliverance, because life moved slower. You are accustomed to e-mail and phone communication and the Internet and air travel, and the pace of your life and getting things done is much faster.

You tend to expect "e-mail speed" answers to prayer. And it's not that I'm incapable of giving them to you. But that's often not the best way to accomplish My long-term goals--and yours too, when it really comes down to it. Speedy deliverance from any difficulty isn't always what will bear the best fruit in the long run.

So you need patience. You should pray for patience. You should realize that you are naturally impatient because of the world you live in and the speed at which you are accustomed to things operating. You must realize that I often go slower, because that's the better way to accomplish My purpose. Again, it comes back to faith.

Strengthen your faith. That's the bottom line. Faith is the currency of the spiritual realm, and when you've really stood your ground with faith and endured, your faith will be the stronger for it.

Endure, hold on, strengthen your faith. Read My Word and cherish it, whether or not it does anything for you on the surface. Learn to value the Word and faith for the treasure that it is in itself, not for what it does in obvious or instant ways. That is a key.

Overcoming and enduring is part of your testimony

You don't often see the ways that your struggles are strengthening the faith of others who see you. It's hard, when dealing with your own mistakes, to see how what looks like failure to you is actually encouraging others to carry on because of your example. That's going to be a huge part of the joy of Heaven when you arrive: seeing how I used the testimony of your faith--even faith through endurance when you never saw what looked like an answer to you--to strengthen and encourage so many others.

Faith is persevering in My will, even when you don't see Me answering you. Noah persevered for 120 years in building the Ark, sometimes wondering if he'd gotten something wrong and was failing Me, and other times wondering if maybe I'd changed My mind. But he just kept plugging along nevertheless, keeping the faith. Faith was a key part of the witness that I needed him to give to the wicked world. What greater testament of faith could he have than being determined to obey whether it seemed that I was fulfilling My side or not?

I've promised you that the keys will do amazing things. I've promised that you will be a financial power. I've promised to carry you, My brides, in spite of overwhelming tasks, and give you the strength to go on as you rest in Me, feed on My Word, claim the keys, and place every task in My hands. But then, when you obey, you don't always see the fruits immediately and it looks like My promises have failed.

You pray desperately but there are still sicknesses, accidents, troubles, and seeming failures. You place your families and flocks in My hands, trusting that I will keep and prosper them, yet all doesn't always flow smoothly and you are stretched to your limits and beyond. It looks like I have failed, or that the keys haven't really got the power I say they have, or that My promises of protection and provision aren't being fulfilled.

You don't have the visible fruits of everything going great and wonderful, even though you have done what I asked. But think for a moment about Noah. It took great faith to face those crowds of scoffers after a hundred years of telling them about the coming flood. He could easily have looked at the impossibility of the task before him and how long he was having to endure without seeing results. He had to take the flood and the need for the Ark totally by faith, since he only had My voice to go on.

Or look at Moses, after he'd been broken and humbled and learned to depend utterly on Me. He goes before Pharaoh, trusting My promise to deliver the children of Israel, and what happens? Pharaoh says no and makes the children of Israel work even harder! Things looked like they were even worse than before, and by every standard that the mind could grasp, they were! Had My promises actually failed? Of course not. But in those times when to you they seem to have failed, it can cause severe testing if you are looking to visible results to "prove" their veracity.

Moses' trusting in My promises and obedience to My instructions looked like a total failure. His people seemed worse off than ever! In fact, he had to go back and face failure several more times before the victory finally came.

Do you think Moses was tempted to doubt, to wonder if what I'd said was real? Do you think he felt like that was the end and that My power wasn't so great after all? Of course he was tempted to doubt! Of course it seemed hopeless. He battled fiercely! He was humiliated before the very people he was trying so hard to help.

Many times you must step out on blind faith, even when it looks like I've failed or My promises aren't real, or the keys aren't all I've said they were, or My promises of power, protection, and supply aren't being fulfilled like you thought they would be. No matter what things look like, you have to determine that you are going to obey and follow even when everything seems to have gone wrong. That's the greatest testimony of faith that you can have.

Sometimes the periods when all seems to have failed are short, sometimes they are long. Before I parted the Red Sea, it looked like all was lost. Pharaoh's armies had the children of Israel surrounded and trapped. But without that time of hopelessness, the miracle would not have been nearly as great a testimony.

I said through your David that it takes an impossible situation for Me to do a miracle. That means that you have to face situations that seem impossibly difficult at times in order to see the miracle of My power bringing you through to the victory.

I take you through those impossible situations, those times when it looks completely hopeless, and when I require that you hang on for that extra hour, that extra day, that extra period of time, in order to pull down the miracles. That is part of your testimony.

When those who are watching see you claiming the keys, claiming My promises, claiming the victories, claiming that I will do the work and somehow bring you through in spite of seeming failures and defeats, their faith is strengthened. When they see you fall and struggle and you still fight on, despite not seeing the proof with your eyes, knowing that I will fulfill My side, then their faith is strengthened to trust Me when things go wrong for them.

It takes great faith to face what looks like failure and defeat in some area and still keep standing on My Word, on My promises. You sometimes feel weary, exhausted, discouraged, and can't see the victory or even the potential for victory. Virtually every great man or woman of faith throughout history has had to face those times--sometimes for many years, sometimes until the point of death. Yet no matter how long the struggle, living for Me and holding on to your faith is the ultimate victory.

How do you think the martyrs in the Colosseum of Rome felt? My promises must have looked like flat failures in man's eyes in those situations. Yet the martyrs won some of the greatest victories of all time as they simply and humbly remained faithful to the end (Rom.8:36,37).

The hero's challenge

The keys are true. There is no false key promise. There is no promise that I am unable to fulfill.

But I understand that it's easy to tire when you don't see the results you were hoping for. It is a lot harder to hold on, by blind--almost dumb--faith alone, believing that that which you can't see is the greatest reality you'll ever know.

The Enemy is the one behind the discouragement and doubts. He wants to put a stop to the use of the keys, a stop to your faith in prayer and My power to do the supernatural, because if he can weaken your faith, he'll slow down your use of the spiritual weapons, and thus the miracles of the future won't be what they need to be in order to catch the public's eye, to change the lives of many, and to cause drastic change in the world.

I allow the Enemy to test and try you, much like I granted his request to afflict Job on every side. If you are to be heroes of the faith, how can I better help you to achieve that than by honoring you with the hero's challenge of faith?

How will you work miracles in the future if your faith is weak, if you pray but don't believe, if you call on the keys but don't expect them to work? You won't. You can't. There won't be a miraculous future if strong faith is not at the core of your discipleship.

And so, while the Devil thinks he is weakening My ranks and dooming My future, I rejoice, because each test can strengthen you.

Of course it is easy to give in when something doesn't seem to be working, when it doesn't work out the way you anticipated. It's easy to call it quits. It would've been easy for Job to curse Me and die. But when faced with such an easy yet negative option, you can always know that the right choice is in direct opposition to the easy way.

The right choice is often the hard choice. The choice to live amidst the affliction of boils, to live knowing that all your children had suffered terrible deaths, to live knowing that you had no house, no belongings, no money, to live even when those you love are telling you it would be better that you died--that is not an easy choice. That was a downright difficult, painful choice for Job. That was a choice to suffer, just because he knew it was right.

I blessed Job for his stand of faith. Yes, he was self-righteous, and I needed to humble him. That was one of the main reasons I allowed Satan to afflict him--that Job might become even more precious to Me. But the testimony that lives on because of his name is one of the greatest testimonies of faith--"though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15).

Job made a statement of faith, that even if what I had told him to do, even if what I had told him to believe in, proved to be wrong--not only wrong, but deadly--he would still trust in Me. Why? Because his love for Me was so strong that not even death could shake it. And the reward of Job's faith was a double fold return-plan of all that I had taken

away. He regained twice as much as he had lost because he believed.

This story is so close to what is happening in My Family today. Satan has walked the Earth and he has come before Me to plead his case. "Let me weaken their faith. Let me try them and see if they are really as full of faith as You think they are. Let me see if they even deserve the keys." I know Satan's heart, and his purpose is to destroy. But My purpose is that through his testings My Family will come into full life--through stronger faith.

This, My loves, is the hero's challenge. Can you commit to believing in the keys and using them no matter what they do or do not seem to do for you? Can you commit to holding on in faith, like Job held on to Me, despite what it seems I do or don't do for you? Can you commit to believing in My promises simply because I have asked you to, even if for no other reason I've given you? Can you commit to putting faith in the keys, praising Me for them, and being an advocate of the keys, even if you never see one single manifestation of their power?

That is your test of faith. That is the hero's challenge. When Satan tested Job, I gave no promises of physical deliverance; I simply expected Job to trust Me because I was his God and his Creator. I expected him to have faith because I had never failed him before. Can I expect the same of you?

The hero's challenge is to believe Me despite outward appearances and all circumstances that would point to the contrary. The hero's challenge is to believe Me above anything that your eyes can see or that your senses tell you.

I know that the tests are sometimes difficult. I know that there have been times when you've claimed the keys with full faith and you expected Me to come through, and it has sorely tested you to see that oftentimes things don't happen as you have claimed or as the key promises have said.

Can you trust, My loves, that these are tests of faith? It is not that I am trying to make your lives more difficult. It is not that I revel in seeing you suffer. It is not that I delight in giving you tests that are hard to bear. But when I do these things, it is because I know that the ultimate result is going to mean greater blessing, power, and fruit for you, and a great, great defeat for the Enemy.

I am letting the Enemy test your faith, for this is his hour, this is his time. The Enemy is a key element in making your faith as strong as it needs to be to face your future--so long as you don't give in to him, but keep holding on to Me through every blow.

And as you hold on in faith, as you prove your faith in Me by continuing to trust in Me and use the keys and the spiritual weapons I've given you, you will win the victory just as Job did. As Job received his wealth back in double measure, you, My loves, will receive spiritual wealth one hundredfold. You will receive greater faith and yet greater manifestations of spiritual power. That is the reward of holding on in faith. And the Enemy will be incapable of doing anything to stop My power, for your faith will be strong, and your use of spiritual power will be abundant.

So hold on in faith. Say like Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Though the keys don't seem to work for me, yet will I trust in Him. Though things in my life are more difficult and heartbreaking than ever, yet will I trust in Him. Though I feel confused and am hit with doubts, yet will I call on the keys. Though I am discouraged, yet will I trust in Him."

Keep trusting and never give in despite how you feel, despite how your spirit feels, despite how your situation looks. The greatest truth, the surest facts, the truest reality are those things of the spirit. Nothing else matters. No matter how real your discouragement feels, no matter how complicated your situation is, the greatest truth is that I love you, that the spiritual weapons work, and that those things you do for and in the spirit will last forever.

It's all part of the plan

(Dad speaking:) "It's the Spirit, just the Spirit, that is truth and fact, you see. Yes, the Spirit, only the Spirit, is the true reality."

I know it's tempting to doubt the things of the Spirit, and I know the Enemy's lies are pretty convincing, but you've just got to determine in your heart, mind, and spirit that you will not doubt, you will not give in to his lies, you will not believe him, that you will hold on in faith, even if you never see the answer.

You have to condition your mind to not even go there. Instead tell yourself, "The things of the Spirit are the true reality. So I will not doubt it."

Praise the Lord for those very things you are tempted to feel unsure of. Just get so busy praising Him that you won't have time to think about the doubts or the lies or the worries. Don't feel condemned either if you are hit with doubts along these lines. As the Lord said, the Enemy's attacks on your faith are all part of the plan, part of the strengthening process. So if you're hit, rejoice! Praise the Lord that you're under attack, because that means the Lord has chosen you to undergo the "hero's challenge"--which means that the hero's reward will soon be yours, if you don't give in.

Don't get condemned if you're battling. Be thankful. Praise the Lord for trusting you with such a tough battle. Praise Him for choosing you to fight such a foe. Praise Him that this battle is making you into a "hero of faith," something very valuable to the Lord.

You are all mighty warriors of the faith, and these are the challenges and tests of faith that you must pass through before you are ready for the reward. Keep holding on. Keep fighting these battles of faith. Keep trusting the Lord no matter what, and I promise that you will be strengthened through these tough fights. Don't be weary in well-doing; there are wonderful times of reaping ahead.--And great blessings too! I love you!

The testing will pass, but your faith will remain - stronger, purer, and more precious than ever

Your ways aren't My ways, My loves, and I don't look at the battles and the testing that you're experiencing as a bad thing. I am testing, purifying, and trying your faith so that you may come through as even purer gold. It's a cleansing.

Yes, sometimes that means you experience difficulties, you face questions, doubts, battles, hardships--you even face some things that you wonder where on earth they came from. You wonder why you feel the way you do, and you think that something must be really, really wrong with you for feeling that way. But no, it's not. It's part of the purifying and the strengthening process.

I allow the Enemy to test you, to try you. You experience what it's like to be buffeted by the Enemy. And then you come through. That's when I know and you know your true strength.

How do you pull through? How do you come out of such situations strong and whole? How do you not give up halfway through? As always, the key is in looking to Me, hearing from Me, strengthening your faith by healthy intake of the Word, and drawing your strength from Me. Then you must wield the weapons that I have given you--praise being one of the most powerful in these situations.

I understand that it's doubly difficult to do these things when you're in the thick of the battle, and the Enemy will try to hit you with condemnation. Don't listen to him! Praise Me anyway. Praise Me for the good, the bad, and the ugly. Praise Me for the victories and praise Me for the defeats. Praise Me even though you don't really know what to praise Me for. Even if things don't look positive, just keep praising, because praise truly is the victory. In positiveness there is strength, and through praise you are able to see things the way I see them, and My hand is moved on your behalf to bring forth the victories.

Use the keys. Think about what you need, and send a specific, targeted key at that need. Don't settle for the general, "I call on the keys." Call on specific, targeted keys. If you are battling with doubts, invoke the keys of unwavering faith, the keys of simplicity, the keys of My mind. If you're battling weariness, call on the keys of strength, the keys of energy, the keys of lifeblood, the keys of resting in Me, the keys of infusion, and the keys of balance to know when it's time to stop and when it's time to keep pressing forward. Think and pray about what you need, and then invoke the key for the solution. Even if all you do is call on one specific key over and over again, you will see victory.

During times of battle the Enemy often comes in with spiritual lethargy as well. He knows that if you are on the attack in the spirit, he will lose. So he brings the double-edged sword of lethargy, because then you won't do anything about it. So get rid of Lethargy, and remind yourself over and over that when you fight in the spirit, the battle will be won.

This may all sound like a lot of work, and if you're feeling weary or embattled, a lot more work is the last thing you want. But you have to put your will on My side. You have to choose to fight in the spirit. Even if all you do is invoke the keys and My helpers to fight for you, and then you lie back in My arms and rest in Me, the victory will be won.

I'm sorry about the battles and trials and difficulties. Sometimes, however, I cannot answer in the time or the way that you are requesting it. There are many reasons for this, and you know that. You know that My ways aren't your ways, that I know better than you--you know all those principles, but it's still a struggle when you are experiencing difficulties and battles that you wish I would rescue you from. I wish I could rescue you, but that would not help you. You would not learn what you must learn. You would not come through as the strong warriors that you are destined to be.

All testing is only for a time. And when it has passed, your faith remains--stronger and purer and more precious than ever. Every single one of you, without exception, will one day thank Me for not rescuing you prematurely and for continuing to keep you in the fire until the victory was won. [1]

There will be many steps of faith that I will ask of My children. Each time you make the right decision to take that step of faith, you will find your faith increased, for you will have activated your anointing of greater faith. It is within each of you, as I promised. But the only way to see the fulfillment of that promise, the only way to feel the anointing, to see the tangible proof, is to use it.

For that very purpose will I set before each of you many tests of faith. I will test your faith again and again in order to give you opportunities to exercise it. I will test your faith in whatever areas it needs strengthening. Those of you who are strong in a particular area will not face as many tests in that area. But any area where your faith is weak or in need of strengthening, in that area you will be tested--for the sole purpose of teaching each of you to activate your anointing, to use your gift of faith, to rise above difficulties, and to overcome impossibilities.

It wouldn't be an impossibility if you were faced with a test that was easy, or in an area where you are well versed or strong. It's only an impossibility when it looks and feels impossible! For this purpose of strengthening you I will give you impossibilities to overcome. But this is not a punishment, a chastisement, or a sign that you're out of My will. Rather it's a sign that you're one of My Endtime brides who has received the gift of greater faith, the anointing of overcoming impossibilities, and so I'm giving you these situations to learn to use that anointing, to put that faith into action.

In the soon-coming days, your faith will be tested by the Evil One. I will allow it as a testimony to My power, a testimony to the depth of your faith, a testimony to the overcoming power of My Spirit in you. But you must be ready for these great tests. I will allow each one's faith to be sorely tested. These tests will come in new and varied ways, but it's all for the purpose of teaching you to exercise the gift that I have put within you.

The tests will be many and varied, but in each case the core purpose will be the same--that of strengthening your faith and teaching you to overcome, activating the gift of faith within you.

As you learn to overcome, the next test will be more obvious, and you will overcome more easily--because the formula for overcoming will be the same each time. With each test you face, the process will become more and more clear, until your faith muscles are strong and exercised and you can put them to use without a moment's hesitation. Each of you will become as a prizefighter, one of My commandos, skilled and trained for all scenarios, and ready for the darkest days that will ever fall upon the world.

This is nothing to be feared or dreaded, but it is the beginning of the purging, the making white, the preparing of My saints and heroes of faith who will be My showcase to the world. Each one will be called upon to do miracles. Each of you will need to be ready, your faith exercised and resting firmly on the foundation of My truth, My Word, and utter confidence in My love. The days to come will not be the time to wonder or hesitate. Your reflexes will need to be as lightning! And your defensive armor will be vital--your shield of faith, your overcoming faith, your faith which will surround you, protect you, empower you, and ultimately triumph victorious over the Dragon, the world, and all of evil's power!

Do not dread the tests. Look at them as steppingstones to victory, hurdles that you must cross, strength training for the big race. You will need it soon.

When you're faced with the need and your faith is strong and exercised, you will weep tears of thankfulness for the tests that taught you how to use it, how to wield it, how to unleash the power of Heaven through the simplicity of your faith. You'll not regret it, My loves. Gird up, for the training begins. The tests of your faith will come, but when they come, remember that they are but tests. Pull out the instructions I've given you, follow them implicitly, and watch your anointing be unveiled.

As you face each of these tests, the way to overcome will be obvious. You won't have to wonder or guess; I'll make it very clear to you as you seek Me. The basic criterion to keep in mind when you face these things is: Anything which holds you back or even threatens to hinder you from fulfilling what I've told you is My highest will is an obstacle to be overcome! Each thing that falls into that category is something you should look on as a test, an opportunity to put your faith into action, an opportunity to rise above, to strengthen your faith, to activate your anointing.

Each test that you pass, your faith will increase tenfold in that area. Each time you stretch your faith in obedience, in trust, in stepping out to do, to believe, your capacity will increase, your anointing will shine brighter, and you'll be walking in the power of the activated gift that is within you. You won't have to try; it will just come. You won't have to work it up; your faith will be there, strong and exercised, and ready to be used. The first few tests will be hard, but after that you will see them as challenges. You'll enjoy them, because you will have seen My power in action. You'll feel your faith growing within you, and it will give you a glow, a happiness, an anointing that you've never known before. (2)

(Spirit helper:) Welcome to the ranks of the warriors. Welcome to the company of heroes. This is what we do. Whenever you face an intense fight that seems stronger than ever, you can know that this is the kind of battle we specialize in. Now you know what it's like to join the big time. No more piddling around in puddles; you're in the deep end, and now you know what it's like to fight real battles for your faith!

These are grown-up battles, real-world wars. Welcome! We've been waiting for you. These trials that you're facing right now are a rite of passage for you, as you become seasoned men and women of God. It's a test to see if you're worthy to join our ranks. Every warrior with his or her name on the Hall of Warriors had to face fierce tests, but they fought and overcame. They rose to the challenge, they stayed true to their faith. Everyone has battles of one kind or another, and these tests of standing up for your faith and fighting for your convictions and holding true to your calling are among some of the fiercest that the Evil One launches on the Lord's children.

Nothing comes without a price, and these tests of faith are part of contending for your faith. But the rewards you receive in return, the fame and glory in Heaven, are well worth it. The battle isn't easy, but it's worth it. If you hold out and conquer, you'll be able to brag about this battle, and it'll be the first of many such glorious conquests.

Welcome to the big time, where real battles are fought and won. No more simulations, no more training exercises--the real thing. This is where wars are fought, and won or lost. This is the real world, and we are your companions, and count it an honor to have you join our ranks. All the great warriors of Heaven are rooting for you and praying that you'll make it. We all remember what it was like, and we know what glory comes after you pass these tests, so we're all cheering for you.

If you could only see what is going on in Heaven! We've gathered in the Hall of Warriors by the thousands. We're cheering for you--yes, you! You're on our viewer, and we're watching you, praying for you, praying that you'll stand strong and receive the power to rise up and fight.

Satan, the Enemy of your soul, will launch crafty and vicious surprise attacks, hoping to damage and scatter you. He knows that you are the superior fighting force and that his usual frontal assault would fail miserably. So he has instead opted to use tactics of fear and confusion, and he's counting on you to fall prey to his dastardly, divisive plan.

For Satan to succeed, you have but to give in to the fear and turn tail and break formation. You have but to give in to the confusion and doubt so that you are so busy trying to make sense of it in your own strength that you forget to ready your weapons. He's counting heavily on that, for without the vulnerabilities of human nature, his evil cause is lost.

But as My elite troops you are beyond the vulnerabilities of human nature. You may still feel fear, but you know you can overcome it with the shield of faith, made from the invulnerable metals of My Word. You may be confused, but you know that soaking in My Word can give you the clarity of mind you need in order to defeat the doubts and confusion.

The Enemy sends strange lumbering beasts of doubt and fear charging forth to smash and trample your ranks. Some of you have never seen such enormous, gruesome monsters before, and your first reaction is to cower in fear or to stand upon the battlefield in awe as they trample you under foot. But you are My elite troops and you need not give in to this tactic of terror! It matters not what these beasts are or where they came from. All that matters is that they must fall, and the weapons you hold in your hand right now have been forged in Heaven, and can send these beasts crashing to the ground, or even doubling back in fear and pain, causing destruction and confusion to their own ranks.

The battle is upon you. So stop what you are doing now and fall into formation, soldiers! Lift your weapons, ready your shields, and begin to fight alongside your brothers, to bring the Enemy to bloody ruin! Turn the tables of this fiendish attack and charge at the Enemy. Let Satan and his minions remember this day with anguish, as the day his massive assault of fear and confusion became his massive defeat, as his armies ran in fear and were scattered in chaos!

Let this be the day all your brethren around the world remember as the days of great victory--the days you readied your shield of faith by soaking yourself in the Word, the days you armed yourself with the powerful promises from the Scriptures, the days you skillfully wielded the modern weapons of the keys and prophecy, and drove those fools into the sea! [3]

1. Faith--now and forever! #3699:13-36, 38-50, 54, 55, 104-129, 150-159
2. More on the Keys! What the Future Holds, Part 2 #3351:82-88, 90-93
3. Fight for Your Faith, Part 1! #3667:117-121, 175-180